

As you prepare for your summer travel the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reminds consumers of the importance of protecting your smart devices from theft and International Roaming.

The theft of wireless devices, particularly smartphones, is sharply on the rise across the country. The high resale value of these high-tech phones and their personal information contained on the device that could be used by identity thieves has made the smartphones a prime target for robbers. Wireless devices include tablets smart watches, and smart bands to name a few. Before you depart for your summer vacation, below are tips for protecting your smart devices.

Record device information . Write down the device's make, model number, serial number and unique device identification number (International Mobile Equipment Identifier (IMEI), Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) or Electronic Serial Number (ESN)). This information can be found in your device settings or printed on a label affixed to your device underneath the battery. The police may need this information if the device is stolen or lost.

Set a password/PIN and use the lock screen function . The password/PIN and lock screen functions on devices make it more difficult for thieves to use your stolen device and access your personal data.

Report all smart device thefts immediately to your wireless carrier and local law enforcement. Visit www.fcc.gov/stolen-phones-contact-numbers .

Treat your smart device theft like a credit card theft . Smart devices frequently contain sensitive financial and personal information.

Consider using smart device security apps. These apps can be useful in locating and recovering stolen devices. If lost or stolen, inform law enforcement officials of your device's security app, which will help with locating and recovering the device.

Regularly back up photos and data . Photos, videos contacts, emails and other data should be backed up regularly on a computer, USB drive or cloud service.

Roaming is complicated. Take time to understand all the rules and rates before you travel.

Contact your mobile service provider before travel. Because mobile telephone networks differ from country to country, your phone may become incompatible with the foreign networks. Most U.S. domestic service plans do not cover usage abroad. Your provider may have options to provide mobile service outside of the U.S.

For more information on protecting your smart devices and International Roaming visit:

<http://www.fcc.gov/guides/stolen-and-lost-wireless-devices>

<http://www.ctia.org/your-wireless-life/consumer-tips/how-to-deter-smartphone-thefts-and-protect-your-data>

<https://www.fcc.gov/guides/international-calling-wireless-providers-voip-services-and-smartphone-manufacturers>